prices; strengthening the export incentive schemes like CCS, Duty drawback, IPRS and concessionary interest rates; Supportive exchange rate and demand management policies; improvement in infrastructural facilities; simplification of procedures; etc.

(b) In 1990-91 the export of agricultural commodities including plantations and marine products is estimated to contribute about 15.88 per sent of overall export target.

(c) The steps being taken to increase the agricultural exports include new rationalised rates introduced for REP, import of capital goods at concessional rate of 20 per cent custom duty, Export Packaging Credit, easing of air cargo, sea and rail transport problems, participation in international fairs/expositions, grant of CCS, etc.

CRPF Assistance sought for the security of income-tax department officials

1053. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is being sought for the security of Income-Tax Department officials during raids;

(b) whether Government are aware of recent incidents of assault on raiding tax officials; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A serious incident of violence took place during the course of search operations at Muzaffarnagar and Bijnore (U.P.) in September, 1989, where the Income-tax officials participating in search operations were violently attached resulting in serious injuries to some of them. Besides, a large number of officials were also manhandled. Other incidents of violence also took palace at Bombay, Itawa and Bharatpur during 1989. During 1990 one incident of assault on Income-tax officials took place at Bairagad near Bhopal.

RBI Instructions for working capital assistance to small sector

1054. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued instructions to all banks to deal with the proposal for working capital assistance to the small scale sector within a time frame;

(b) if so, what are the details of the instructions issued by RBI in this regard: and

(c) to what extent the small scale units in the country would be benefited thereby?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) RBI has reported that guidelines have been issued to commercial banks laying down, *Inter-alia*, that direct loan applications under the priority sector including SSI Sector upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. These guidelines are aimed at enforcing a strict time discipline in dealing with all priority sector credit proposals including those received from the SSI Sector. The guidelines also envisage issue of acknowledgement with date of receipt of applications and evolving an effective system for monitoring the timely disposal of cases.

These guidelines are intended to facilitate the flow of timely credit to the units in the small scale sector.

Restriction on import of certain items

1055. SHRI KAPIL VERMA.
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the items whose imports are proposed to be curtailed and to what extent and what would be the savings in foreign exchange thereby;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to curb bureaucratic controls to boost exports; and

(c) what are the reasons for closing down some foreign offices of India Investment Centre and Trade Development Authority and what would be the saving thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Items to be allowed for import are kept under constant review and changes are made as and when required and notified by means of Public Notices, copies of which are sent to Parliament Library.

(b) Procedures involving export documentation have been simplified with a view to facilitate quick and easy disposal of the export documents.

(c) The decision to close-down some foreign offices was taken with a view to rationalise and reorganise their functioning and to achieve better operational efficiency, coordination and economy. Annual Savings on account of the closure of the foreign offices is likely to be to the extent of Rs. 2.80 crores, in the case of India Investment Centre (based on budget estimates for 1990-91), and Rs. 7.5 crores in case of foreign offices under the Ministry of Commerce including Trade Development Authority.

Foreign marked gold biscuits seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a van on Delhi-Haryana Border

1056. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recently seized huge stocks of foreign marked gold biscuits from a van intercepted on the Delhi-Haryana border;

(b) if so, what are the details/value thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken so far against the culprits; and

(d) whether Government propose to intensify greater security checks on the borders especially adjoining Delhi border, if so, the preventive measures taken so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted a Maruti van on 23rd July, 1990 near Panipat. Search of the van resulted in the recovery of 300 foreign marked gold bars valued at Rs. 1.15 crores approximately. The gold and the van were seized and the occupants of the van namely Jagbir Singh, driver and Gurmej Singh were arrested.

(d) The Enforcement agencies of the Customs department remain alert against such smuggling. Road patrol parties conduct checks on all the sensitive route including those to Delhi. Close co-ordination is maintained amongst all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.